

Claims:

1. A contourable orthopedic pillow comprising:
 - an inflatable bladder, said inflatable bladder being capable of being inflated to a variety of levels by placing a gas therein,
 - a resilient material covering both the top and bottom of said bladder, said resilient material being sufficient flexible to accommodate inflation of said bladder,
 - wherein said combination of bladder and covering is symmetrical top to bottom so that it can be turned over for use on either side,
 - wherein the pillow may be adjusted from a fully flat configuration to a fully contoured configuration by inflating said bladder,
 - wherein said bladder may be inflated in discrete increments by use of a pump, and
 - wherein said resilient material is overlaid with another padding material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam, memory foam, latex foam rubber, fiber batting, buckling elastomers, and a resilient material consisting of discontinuous pieces of flexible material joined together by low durometer, high elongation elastomeric material.
2. A pillow as recited in claim 1 further comprising a second inflatable bladder.
3. A pillow as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
 - a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including

a pump bladder having bladder walls,
 an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,
 resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and
 a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and
 a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape therefrom.

4. A contourable orthopedic pillow comprising:

an inflatable bladder, and
 a resilient material covering both the top and bottom of said bladder, said resilient material being sufficiently flexible to accommodate inflation of said bladder,
 wherein said resilient material has top/bottom symmetry so that the pillow can be turned over for use on either side,
 wherein said bladder may be inflated and deflated to adjust contour of the pillow from nearly flat to fully contoured,
 wherein contour of the pillow is adjustable in discrete increments by inflating said bladder in discrete increments.

5. A pillow as recited in claim 4 further comprising a second inflatable bladder which may be inflated to further adjust orthopedic contour of the pillow.

6. A pillow as recited in claim 4 further comprising:

a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including

a pump bladder having bladder walls,

an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,

resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to

re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing

force, and

a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-

containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-

containing bladder, and

a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to

escape therefrom.

7. A contoured orthopedic pillow comprising:

a bladder that may be inflated by placement of a gas therein, and

a resilient material covering overlaying both the top and bottom of said bladder, said resilient material covering being sufficiently flexible to accommodate inflation of said bladder,

wherein contour of the pillow is adjustable from nearly flat to fully contoured by inflation of said bladder, and

wherein contour of the pillow is adjustable in discrete increments.

8. A pillow as recited in claim 7 further comprising a second inflatable bladder

which may be inflated to further adjust orthopedic contour of the pillow.

9. A pillow as recited in claim 7 further comprising
a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including
a pump bladder having bladder walls,
an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,
resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to
re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing
force, and
a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-
containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-
containing bladder, and
a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to
escape therefrom.

10. A pillow as recited in claim 7 wherein said resilient material covering is
selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam, memory foam, latex
foam rubber, fiber batting, buckling elastomers, and a resilient material that
includes discontinuous pieces of flexible material joined together by low-
durometer, high-elongation elastomeric material.

11. A pillow as recited in claim 10 further comprising:
a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including
a pump bladder having bladder walls,
an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,

resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and

a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and

a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape therefrom.

12. A contourable orthopedic pillow comprising:

a bladder that may be inflated by placement of a gas therein, and

a resilient material covering overlaying both the top and bottom of said bladder, said resilient material covering being sufficiently flexible to accommodate inflation of said bladder,

wherein said pillow is symmetrical from a top/bottom perspective so that it may be turned over for use on either side.

13. A pillow as recited in claim 12 further comprising a second inflatable bladder which may be inflated to further adjust orthopedic contour of the pillow.

14. A pillow as recited in claim 12 further comprising:

a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including

a pump bladder having bladder walls,

an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,

resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and

a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and

a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape therefrom.

15. A pillow as recited in claim 12 wherein said resilient material covering is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam, memory foam, latex foam rubber, fiber batting, buckling elastomers, and a resilient material that includes discontinuous pieces of flexible material joined together by low-durometer, high-elongation elastomeric material.

16. A pillow as recited in claim 15 further comprising:

a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including

a pump bladder having bladder walls,

an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,

resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and

a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and

a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape therefrom.

17. A contourable orthopedic cushion comprising:

a bladder that may be inflated by placement of a gas therein, and

a resilient material covering overlaying both the top and bottom of said bladder, said resilient material covering being sufficiently flexible to accommodate inflation of said bladder,

wherein said pillow is symmetrical from a top/bottom perspective so that it may be turned over for use on either side.

18. A cushion as recited in claim 17 further comprising a second inflatable bladder which may be inflated to further adjust orthopedic contour of the pillow.

19. A cushion as recited in claim 17 further comprising:

a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including

a pump bladder having bladder walls,

an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,

resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and

a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and

a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape therefrom.

20. A cushion as recited in claim 17 wherein said resilient material covering is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam, memory foam, latex foam rubber, fiber batting, buckling elastomers, and a resilient material that includes discontinuous pieces of flexible material joined together by low-durometer, high-elongation elastomeric material.

21. A cushion as recited in claim 20 further comprising:

a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including

a pump bladder having bladder walls,

an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired,

resilient means located in said pump bladder, said resilient means serving to re-expand said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and

a one-way valve between said pump bladder and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder, and

a bleed valve on said inflatable gas-containing bladder for permitting gas to escape therefrom.

22. A contourable orthopedic pillow for cushioning the head and neck of a user comprising:

a core section fabricated from a resilient material,

an overlay on said core section, said overlay being of a material that is softer than said core section.

23. A pillow as recited in claim 22 wherein the pillow has top/bottom symmetry so that it may be turned over and used on either side.

24. A pillow as recited in claim 22 further comprising an adjustment means located in said core section, said adjustment means being capable of adjusting the contour of the pillow to a variety of levels in discrete increments by placing a gas therein.

25. A pillow as recited in claim 24 wherein said adjustment means is a fluid-containing bladder.

26. A pillow as recited in claim 22 wherein said overlay includes a material selected from the group consisting of latex foam rubber, buckling elastomer, and a resilient material that has discontinuous pieces of a flexible material joined together by a low-durometer, high-elongation elastomeric material.

27. A pillow as recited in claim 22 wherein said overlay includes a material selected from the group consisting of elastomers and a resilient material that has discontinuous pieces of a flexible material joined together by a low-durometer, high-elongation elastomeric material.

28. A pillow for cushioning the head and neck of a user comprising:

a core section fabricated from a resilient material,

an overlay on said core section;

wherein said overlay includes a material selected from the group consisting of latex foam rubber, buckling elastomer, and a resilient material that has discontinuous pieces of a flexible material joined together by a low-durometer, high-elongation elastomeric material.

29. A pillow as recited in claim 28 wherein the pillow has top/bottom symmetry so that it may be turned over and used on either side.

30. A pillow as recited in claim 28 further comprising an inflatable bladder located in said core section, said inflatable bladder being capable of being inflatable to a variety of levels by placing a gas therein.

31. A pillow as recited in claim 28 further comprising an adjustment means located in said core section, said adjustment means being capable of adjusting the contour of the pillow to a variety of levels in discrete increments by placing a gas therein.

32. A pillow as recited in claim 31 wherein said adjustment means is a fluid-containing bladder.

33. A cushion for cushioning the head and neck of a user comprising:

a core section fabricated from a resilient material,

an overlay on said core section;

wherein said overlay includes a material selected from the group consisting of latex foam rubber, buckling elastomer, and a resilient material that has discontinuous pieces of a flexible material joined together by a low-durometer, high-elongation elastomeric material.

34. A cushion as recited in claim 28 wherein the cushion has top/bottom symmetry so that it may be turned over and used on either side.

35. A cushion as recited in claim 28 further comprising an inflatable bladder located in said core section, said inflatable bladder being capable of being inflatable to a variety of levels by placing a gas therein.

36. A cushion as recited in claim 28 further comprising an adjustment means located in said core section, said adjustment means being capable of adjusting the contour of the cushion to a variety of levels in discrete increments by placing a gas therein.

37. A cushion as recited in claim 31 wherein said adjustment means is a fluid-containing bladder.

38. A bed pillow comprising:

a plurality of discrete pieces of resilient material joined together by pieces of low-durometer, high-elongation elastomeric material.

39. A pillow as recited in claim 38 wherein the pillow has an orthopedic contour for support of the head and neck.

40. A pillow as recited in claim 39 further comprising an inflatable bladder in the pillow.

41. A cushion comprising:

a plurality of discrete pieces of resilient material joined together by pieces of low-durometer, high-elongation elastomeric material.

42. A cushion as recited in claim 41 wherein said cushion is configured to support a human head.

43. A cushion as recited in claim 42 wherein the cushion has an orthopedic contour for support of the head and neck.

44. A cushion as recited in claim 41 further comprising an inflatable bladder in the pillow.

45. A cushion as recited in 44 wherein said cushion is configured to support a human head.

46. A shape-adjustable cushion comprising:

an inflatable gas-containing bladder constructed from at least two layers of film welded together, said bladder being of a construction which permits it to substantially contain gas placed therein,

a pump integral to the pillow, the pump including a pump bladder having bladder walls, an orifice on a bladder wall through which a gas may travel as desired, resilient means for re-expanding said pump bladder after it has been contracted by a squeezing force, and a one-way valve between said pump and said inflatable gas-containing bladder to permit the pump to force gas into said inflatable gas-containing bladder,

a means for allowing gas to escape said gas-containing bladder, and

resilient material covering at least two sides of said inflatable gas-containing bladder.

47. A cushion as recited in claim 46 wherein the cushion is adapted for supporting the head and neck of a user.

48. A cushion as recited in claim 46 wherein said resilient material is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam, memory foam, latex foam rubber, fiber batting and elastomer.

49. A cushion as recited in claim 48 wherein the cushion is adapted for supporting the head and neck of a user.